



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - October 23, 2002

- ***In the West***, beneficial rain and snow showers linger across the ***central and southern Rockies*** and the ***Intermountain region***, but unfavorably dry conditions persist in ***Northwestern*** winter wheat areas.
- ***On the Plains***, very cold weather in ***Montana*** (this morning's low temperatures ranged from 10 to 20 degrees F) continues to slow winter wheat development and possibly burn back emerging growth. Farther south, wintry precipitation (snow, freezing rain, and rain) is boosting soil moisture reserves on the drought-affected ***central High Plains***, while widespread showers are maintaining generally favorable moisture levels for winter wheat establishment from ***Oklahoma and south-central Kansas southward***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, frequently delayed upper ***Midwestern*** corn and soybean harvests are progressing under cold, overcast conditions. Meanwhile across the ***southern and eastern Corn Belt***, cool weather and limited soil moisture reserves are slowing winter wheat development.
- ***In the South***, mostly dry weather prevails in the ***Delta***, allowing rice, soybean, and cotton harvesting to progress where field conditions allow. Meanwhile in ***southern Texas***, locally heavy showers favor fall-sown crops.

Outlook: A high-pressure system will bring dry, cold weather to the ***northern Plains***, while a stationary front will provide the focus for periods of rain and snow across the ***central and southern Plains***. Farther south, locally heavy rain will accompany a series of disturbances crossing the ***Gulf Coast States***, while showers will spread into the ***Ohio Valley, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic States*** by week's end. Elsewhere, dry weather will last through week's end in the ***Pacific Coast States***, while unsettled, windy conditions will prevail in the ***Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 28 - November 1 calls for above-normal precipitation in the upper ***Midwestern, Southeastern, and Atlantic Coast States***, while drier-than-normal conditions will persist in the ***Pacific Northwest***. Below-normal temperatures are expected in the ***Plains, Midwest, and Northeast***, while above-normal readings will be confined to ***western Washington*** and ***southern Florida***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)